

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUJUMB 00334 301335Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /067 W
-----301346Z 051990 /43

P R 301250Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6071
INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUJUMBURA 0334

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BY, CG, AO
SUBJ: UPDATE OF BURUNDI POSITION ON SHABA SITUATION

REF : (A) STATE 66446, (B) BUJUMBURA 292

1. IN FURTHERANCE OF REFTEL A, AND AS FOLLOW-UP TO
DISCUSSION BETWEEN ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR AND PRIME MINISTER
NZAMBIMANA, REFTEL B, ON MARCH 18, I PRESSED FONMIN
MUGANGA MARCH 30 FOR BURUNDI REACTION TO EVOLVING SHABA
SITUATION.

2. MUGANGA SAID TOP OFFICIALS HAD RECENTLY REVIEWED
POSSIBILITY OF BURUNDI ACTION OR DECLARATION, BUT HAD

DECIDED AGAINST ANY MOVE. HE EXPLAINED THAT BURUNDI FULLY
UNDERSTOOD DANGER OF LETTING ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY SUPPORT A
REBEL FORCE MOVING INTO A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, SINCE BURUNDI
IN THE PAST (1972 AND 1973) HAD EXPERIENCED A SIMILAR PROBLEM.
MOREOVER, DURING HIS BRIEF RECENT TRANSIT THROUGH BUJUMBURA
FROM KINSHASA, FONMIN NSEKALJE OF RWANDA HAD MADE MUGANGA
FULLY AWARE OF EXTREME WEAKNESS OF ZAIRIAN MILITARY POSITION
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IN SHABA. NONETHELESS, BURUNDI FELT THAT IT COULD DO
NOTHING. IT HAD NO EMBASSY IN LUANDA, AND BAGAZA HAD NEVER

EVEN MET NETO. BESIDES, BURUNDI'S NEW REGIME CARRIED LITTLE
WEIGHT AS YET IN AFRICAN CIRCLES. THUS, IT WAS BY FAR
PREFERABLE FOR IT TO STAND ASIDE WHILE GIVING FULLY MORAL
SUPPORT TO NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT. MUGANGA THOUGHT THAT

NIGERIA, WITH ITS EXCELLENT TIES TO BOTH ANGOLA AND ZAIRE,
ALONG WIT ITS GREAT POWER AND PRESTIGE IN AFRICA, SHOULD BE
ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING, IF ANYONE COULD.

3. FONMIN NOTED THAT PRESIDENT BAGAZA WOULD RECEIVE
ZAIRIAN ROVING AMBASSADOR LENGEMA ON MARCH 30. I HAVE THE
FEELING THAT THE LATTER WILL GET ABOUT THE SAME MESSAGE AS
I DID, I.E., TEA AND SYMPATHY, BUT NO COMMITMENT TO
WORD OR DEED.
MARK

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUJUMB00334
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770109-0066
Format: TEL
From: BUJUMBURA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977038/aaaaagqq.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f745ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 66446, 77 BUJUMBURA 292
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3168806
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE OF BURUNDI POSITION ON SHABA SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, BY, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f745ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009